

Appl. No. 09/825,609
Amdt. dated September 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent insert for use with an absorbent garment, the insert comprising:

a body-facing outer surface and a garment-facing outer surface, said garment-facing outer surface being at least partially fluid permeable;

at least one absorbent layer having a first primary surface and a second primary surface; and

at least one water insoluble continuous fluid impermeable delay layer adapted to substantially affect the flow of fluid passing through the insert, said at least one continuous fluid impermeable delay layer having a first primary surface and a second primary surface;

wherein the surface area of each of said primary surfaces of said at least one water insoluble continuous fluid impermeable delay layer is less than the surface area of each of said primary surfaces of at least one of the said at least one absorbent layers;

wherein said at least one delay layer is positioned between said at least one absorbent layer and said garment-facing outer surface; and

wherein said garment-facing outer surface further comprises an attachment portion adapted to removably attach the insert to an absorbent garment.

2. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 1, wherein said at least one delay layer is adapted to substantially change the flow direction of fluid passing through the insert.

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3. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 1, wherein said at least one delay layer is adapted to partially inhibit the flow of fluid through the insert.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 1, further comprising a first cover layer and a second cover layer, said body-facing outer surface comprising a surface of said first cover layer, said garment-facing outer surface comprising a surface of said second cover layer, said at least one delay layer positioned between said first cover layer and said second cover layer.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 8, wherein said attachment portion comprises an adhesive zone adapted to removably attach the insert to the absorbent garment.
10. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 1, wherein said at least one absorbent layer comprises a first absorbent layer and a second absorbent layer, each primary surface of said first absorbent layer having a surface area less than the surface area of each primary surface of said second absorbent layer.
11. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 10, wherein said second absorbent layer is positioned between said at least one delay layer and said first absorbent layer.
12. (Currently Amended) An absorbent insert for use with an absorbent garment, the insert comprising:

a body-facing cover layer and a garment-facing cover layer, said garment-facing cover layer being at least partially fluid permeable;

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at least one absorbent layer having a first primary surface and a second primary surface, said at least one absorbent layer positioned between said body-facing cover layer and said garment-facing cover layer; and

at least one water insoluble continuous fluid impermeable delay layer having a first primary surface and a second primary surface, said at least one continuous fluid impermeable delay layer adapted to substantially affect the flow of fluid through the insert, said continuous fluid impermeable delay layer positioned between said body-facing cover layer and said garment-facing cover layer;

wherein the surface area of each of said primary surfaces of said at least one continuous fluid impermeable delay layer is less than the surface area of each of said primary surfaces of at least one of the said at least one absorbent layer; and

wherein said garment-facing cover layer further comprises an attachment portion adapted to removably attach the insert to an absorbent garment.

13. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 12, wherein said at least one delay layer is adapted to substantially change the flow direction of fluid passing through the insert.

14. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 12, wherein said at least one delay layer is adapted to partially inhibit the flow of fluid through the insert.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Original) The absorbent insert of claim 12, further comprising an intake layer between said at body-facing cover layer and said at least one absorbent layer.

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19. (Currently Amended) An absorbent system comprising:
 an absorbent garment adapted to be worn by a user, said absorbent garment
 having a body-facing surface and an outward-facing surface; and
 an absorbent insert for use with the absorbent garment, said absorbent insert
 including:

a body-facing outer surface and a garment-facing outer surface, said
 garment-facing outer surface being at least partially fluid permeable;

at least one absorbent layer having a first primary surface and a second
 primary surface; and

at least one water insoluble continuous fluid impermeable delay layer
 adapted to substantially affect the flow of fluid passing through the insert, said at
 least one continuous fluid impermeable delay layer having a first primary surface
 and a second primary surface;

wherein the surface area of each of said primary surfaces of said at least
 one continuous fluid impermeable delay layer is less than the surface area of
 each of said primary surfaces of at least one of the said at least one absorbent
 layer; and

wherein said at least one delay layer is positioned between said at least one
 absorbent layer and said garment-facing outer surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The absorbent system of claim 19, wherein the
 absorbent insert further comprises an attachment portion adapted to removably attach
 said absorbent insert to said absorbent garment.